

Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 AID-20 NIC-01 DRC-01 /116 W

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R 210824Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2580

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 1210

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT KS

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT PUTS PRESSURE ON NSP

1. GOVERNMENT HAS MOVED TO FURTHER RESTRICT LIMITED
OPPOSITION ROLE OF NDP. FEB 15 EDITION
OF NDP NEWSPAPER HAS BEEN CONFISCATED UNDER A WRIT
ISSUED BY THE SPECIAL MILITARY COURT. ACCORDING NDP
SOURCE, PAPER IS NO MORE THAN USUALLY CRITICAL OF
GOVERNMENT POLICY, AVOIDS DIRECT VIOLATION OF
EMERGENCY MEASURE ONE AND CONCENTRATES CRITICISM
ON ECONOMIC FRONT. REASON REPORTEDLY GIVEN FOR
CONFISCATION, HOWEVER, IS THAT PAPER IS IN FACT
BLAMING YUSHIN SYSTEM FOR COUNTRY'S DIFFICULTIES AND
IT THEREFORE IN VIOLATION EMERGENCY MEASURES. SOURCE
ALSO REPORTS THAT PAPER'S EDITOR, O CHONG-PO, PICKED
UP FEB 19 FOR QUESTIONING.

2. NDP POLITICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MET FEB 20
AND 21 TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC ISSUES AND SEIZURE OF
PAPER; PARTY REPORTEDLY HAS NOT DECIDED WHETHER
TO CONTINUE TO PUBLISH PAPER. PRESS SOURCE HAS
TOLD US THAT GOVERNMENT WILL NOT PERMIT NDP TO
MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENT ON THE MATTER.

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3. FEB 20 TONGA ILBO REPORTS THAT NDP
PRESIDENT YU CHIN-SAN HAS BEEN GIVEN A SUMMONS
TO APPEAR FEB 27 IN CRIMINAL COURT ON
SUSPICION OF VIOLATING THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE LAW.
CHARGE RELATES TO THE 1967 ASSEMBLY ELECTION WHEN
HE ALLEGEDLY RECEIVED CONTRIBUTIONS FROM KOREANS
RESIDENT IN JAPAN. NDP SECRETARY GENERAL SIN TO-HWAN
WAS CALLED IN FOR QUESTIONING RE NDP NEWSPAPER
FEB 20 FOR TWO HOURS AND THEN RELEASED.

4. COMMENT: WE DOUBT YU WILL BE TAKEN TO COURT.
ACTIONS AGAINST HIM, THE PARTY PAPER, AND SECRETARY
GENERAL SIN APPEAR DESIGNED TO IMPRESS ON NDP
GOVERNMENT'S READINESS TO DEAL FIRMLY WITH EVEN
THAT NORMALLY PLIABLE PARTY IF IT ATTEMPTS CRITICISM
ON SUCH SENSITIVE ISSUES AS THE ECONOMIC
SITUATION.
HABIB

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Message Attributes

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